

Application No. 10/775,672

Docket No. 99-68CON1  
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MAR 07 2007REMARKS

Claims 18-23 and 51-64 are now pending in the above-referenced patent application. Applicants respectfully request further consideration of these claims, in view of the amendments set forth above and the following remarks.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error.

Amended Claims

Claims 18, 51 and 57-59 have each been amended.

Claims 18 and 51 have been added to clarify that the polymer compositions comprise at least a fragment of the initiator control agent adducts used to create the polymers. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, including for example at page 49, lines 1-4 and page 50, lines 25-30.

Claims 57-69 have been amended to clarify that the molecular weights are weight average molecular weights.

No new matter has been added.

New Claims

New claims 62-64 have been added to claim certain preferred embodiments of the invention.

No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (Indefiniteness)

Claim 18 stands rejected as being indefinite. Claim 18 has been amended to remove the allegedly indefinite phrasing. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot, and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 57-59 stand rejected as being indefinite for using an allegedly unclear definition for molecular weight. Applicants have amended claims 57-59 to clarify that the

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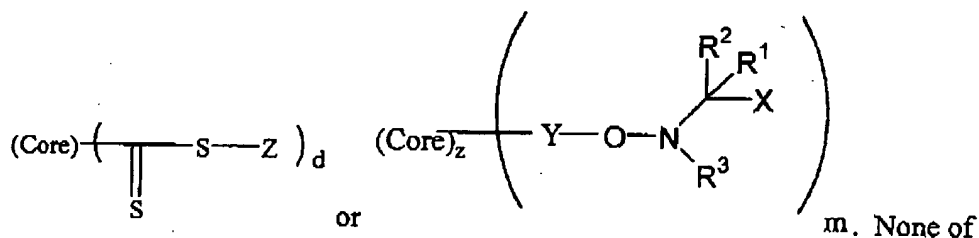
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molecular weights are weight average molecular weights. In view of the claim amendments, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 102(e) or under 103(a) (Hahn, Harlan, JP-08-269891, Fanood)

Claims 18-23, 51-52 and 54-61 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated or in the alternative as obvious over each of U.S. Patent 6,124,396 to Hahn et al., U.S. Patent 6,177,540 to Harlan et al., JP-08-269891 and Fanood et al, Iranian Polymer Journal, Volume 7, number 1, "Branching in Radical Polymerization of Acrylamide" 59-68 (1998), and as obvious over U.S. Patent 5,919,861 to Kazmaier.

Applicants have amended independent claims 18 and 51 to specifically require that the polymer includes at least a fragment of a material having the formula



the references cited in this rejection use these types of materials to make the polymers, and thus do not have at least a fragment of those materials in the polymer composition. Nor is it obvious to use these materials based on the disclosures of the references.

For at least this reason, Applicants submit that independent claims 81 and 51 and the claims dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references, and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (408) 720-2598.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the

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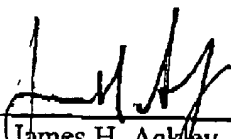
required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0496 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

March 7, 2007

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